

# Bolton Council

## Meeting of the Council 26th February, 2014 - Order of Business

1. Prayers
2. Mayor's Communications (if any) and fire evacuation procedure
3. Declarations of Interests
4. Petitions –To receive a petition relating to the Winifred Kettle Home.
5. Proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

Motions, amendments and questions of which notice has been given and items upon which comment will be made

Date and Time 2014	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
6. Budget 2014/2015: Council Tax 2014/2015: And Other Associated Financial Matters (Please See Attached Advice From Borough Solicitor) Please Note That The Council Now Has To Record How Members Vote With Respect To The Motion And Amendments Relating To The Budget And Council Tax 2014/2015					
19 <sup>th</sup> February, 2014	Council Summons	Motion	Councillor Morris	2014/15 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See Council Summons for main motion

<b>Date and Time 2014</b>	<b>Page and Item Number</b>	<b>Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment</b>	<b>In the name of</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Motion, Amendment or Question</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> February, 2014	Council Summons	Amendment 1	Councillor Greenhalgh	2014/15 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment A
26 <sup>th</sup> February, 2014	Council Summons	Amendment 2	Councillor Hayes	2014/15 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment B
<b>7. Recommendations to Council</b>					
19 <sup>th</sup> February, 2014	Council Summons	Motion	Councillor Morris	Local Council Tax Support Scheme	That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme Regulations for 2014/15 be approved, together with the retention of the local discretionary fund, to support any claimant for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and any council tax payer that find themselves in exceptional financial circumstances.
19 <sup>th</sup> February, 2014	Council Summons	Motion	Councillor Morris	2014/15 Pay Policy Statement	That the Council's 2014/15 Pay Policy Statement, as circulated, be approved
<b>8. Constitution</b>					
19 <sup>th</sup> February, 2014	Council Summons	Motion	Councillor Morris	Appointment of Independent Person	That Mr Paul Howard be appointed the Independent Person with respect to dealing with complaints under the Council's Code of Conduct for members.

Date and Time 2014	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
<b>9. Changes In Committee Membership and Appointments To Other Bodies</b>					
Motion to be moved by Councillor Donaghy					
<b>10. Questions/Comments under Standing Order 9(a)</b>					
24 <sup>th</sup> February, 2014 7.55 a.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Morris)	Councillor Hayes	Under Occupancy Charge	<p>The Leader will doubtless be aware of the loophole in the Bedroom Tax (Under Occupancy Charge) whereby, as currently drafted, it should not have been applied to working age claimants who have continuously occupied the same property since 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1996. As a result it is expected that a number of Bolton claimants will benefit.</p> <p>The Leader will probably also be aware that it is reported that the Government may act to block this loophole as soon as March this year.</p> <p>Will the Leader join with us (and hopefully the Conservative Group) in a joint approach to persuade the Government to delay any such action to block the loophole until at least after the independent study ordered by the Deputy Prime Minister into the impact of the Bedroom Tax which is expected to report in the Autumn?"</p>

Date and Time 2014	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
<b>11. Questions/Comments under Standing Order 9(c)</b>					
24 <sup>th</sup> February, 2014 7.55 a.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Steering Group Member. (Councillor D. Burrows)	Councillor Hayes	Police Precept	<p>The Police precept for a Band D property will be £152.30 from 1<sup>st</sup> April. In April 2005 it was £105.41 – an increase of 44.5% in a period when inflation has risen by only 28.5%. The bulk of this increase was between 2005 and 2010, when the precept rose by 36.9% in a period when inflation was only 14.0%.</p> <p>Can the representative please explain what changes to other funding or pressures on expenditure have justified this apparent anomaly?</p>
<b>12. Committee Proceedings</b>					
<b>Planning Committee</b>  Motion to be moved by Councillor Darvesh <b>(See Section B)</b> .					
<b>Licensing And Environmental Regulation Committee</b>  Motion to be moved by Councillor Kay <b>(See Section C)</b> .					

Date and Time 2014	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
<b>13. Scrutiny Committees</b>  Composite Motion to be moved by Councillor Ashcroft					
<b>(A) Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)</b>					
<b>(B) Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)</b>					
<b>(C) Children's Services and Culture Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)</b>					
<b>(D) Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)</b>					

## **Appendix A**

### **Meeting Of the Council – 26th February, 2014**

#### **Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies**

Moved by Councillor Donaghy and Seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough

That the following appointments and changes in membership be approved:-

- (1) That Councillor Haslam replace Councillor Alan Walsh on SACRE(Comm D)
- (2) That Councillor Ashcroft replace Councillor Alan Walsh on the Dixon Green and Rideout Foundation .

## Attachment A

### Amendment in the name of Councillor Greenhalgh

“The Conservative Group believes that there should be a freeze in Council Tax levels for 2014/15 and the following amendment has been produced in order to deliver that objective.

This is made up of the following proposals:-

- (a) That the Council Tax increase for Bolton Council should be set at zero and this will be funded by the £1m Council Tax Freeze Grant offered by Central Government, plus £600,000 ongoing Revenue savings as follows:-

Reduction in Area Fora/Neighbourhood Management Budgets	£200,000
25% reduction in Councillors' Allowances across the board	£125,000
Savings in Union facilities time and 50% contribution to accommodation service charges	£60,000
Reduce the subsidy in the Albert Halls including the Dido	£50,000
Savings in Personal Advisors	£50,000
Savings in Housing Services	£50,000
Savings in in-house Adult Social Care	£55,000
Reduce Educational Appeals daily allowance to £30	£10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£600,000</b>

- (b) That £0.4m of the ongoing savings from the reduced precept from TfGM be earmarked to fund an increase in the pay for those at the lowest end of the councils pay scales

One off resources to be allocated as follows:

- (c) Reduce the Capital provision for Private Sector Renewal in the Capital Programme by £1m and allocate this £1m for additional capital investment into main Highways schemes
- (d) £1m investment into residential roads
- (e) £1m Capital investment in facilities for young people (schemes to be approved by council)
- (f) Half a million pounds to create a fund to provide support for voluntary and community groups who are considering working with the Council to assist in the reduction in demand for Council services with updates on spend and projects quarterly to Corporate Scrutiny

- (g) Allocate £1m as one-off additional investment to Environmental Services to provide 2 additional teams for a 2 year period to improve cleanliness and enforcement of cleanliness (including dog fouling) of the Borough as follows:-

4 Enforcement Officers	£144,000
5 Operational Charge Hand with enforcement responsibilities	£150,000
5 NCO Operatives	£110,000
2 Crew Cab Vehicles, including cost of fuel	£40,000
Develop publicity material and public awareness with a Spring/Summer waste reduction, cleanliness and enforcement programme	£56,000
<b>Total per year</b>	<b>£500,000</b>

- (h) £3m be retained as a contribution towards the forecast cash flow shortfall in 2015/16
- (i) Delete the £0.5m allocation to a Hardship Fund as the Local Authority we should not be topping up nationally funded benefits. There needs to be a clear distinction between worklessness and those affected by disability/age etc.
- (j) Additional one-off funding of £220,000 for Area Fora allocated equally across all Wards
- (k) Allocate additional one-off funding of £280,000 to re-instate the existing universal summer play schemes for a further 2 years.



## **Attachment B**

### **Amendment in the name of Councillor Hayes**

Council now determining that the following amendments be made to the substantive Council Tax resolution:

- (i) (a) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution.
- (b) Amend as follows:-
  - (i) that Council Tax be frozen for the coming year and the Government's offer of an additional grant of £1 million for 2014/15 and for 2015/16 be accepted;
  - (ii) that a review of Special Responsibility Allowances paid to Councillors be carried out and implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014. The target of that review will be set at achieving £60,000 savings in a full year and £50,000 in 2014/15, this saving being used to help fund the Council Tax freeze;
  - (iii) that the balance of the amount needed to fund the Council Tax freeze (£550,000 for 2014/15) be met from the amount retained as a contribution towards the likely cashflow shortfall in 2015/16 ie to £2.45m .
- (c) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution
- (d) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution, subject to the following:-

whilst welcoming the proposed one-off expenditure on highways, Council considers that the condition of the Borough's highways, particularly in residential areas, urgently needs far greater investment. It therefore determines that, subject to the undermentioned funds being available, a total one off investment of £5 million be made (ie. £3m additional); £1 million for main roads schemes (mainly capital spending) and £4 million for residential roads (a mix of capital and revenue). This extra investment being funded by utilising £1 million of the anticipated underspend on the 2013/14 revenue budget, and £2 million of the anticipated capital receipt from the sale of the Smithills Estate.
- (e) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution.
- (f) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution.

Addition of the following:-

- (g) that, subject to the undermentioned funding being available, the budgets of Area Forums be enhanced by £25,000 per ward (a total of £500,000) funded by the remainder of the underspend on the 2013/14 revenue budget;
- (h) any money remaining from the proceeds of the sale of the Smithills Estate (other than the £500,000 already allocated for work to Smithills Hall) be allocated to capital schemes designed to enhance the town centres of the outlying districts of Horwich, Westhoughton, Blackrod, Farnworth, Kearsley and Little Lever.

(ii) to (xiii) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution.

Amend the substantive Council Tax resolution as follows:-

(xiv) Council further resolves to approach the Electoral Commission with a view to starting the necessary process to reduce the number of Councillors from three per ward to two per ward involving a likely cost saving of up to £300,000 a year.

(xv) Council also resolves to ask for an urgent report on the benefits and costs of installing solar panels on all suitable Council buildings.